

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Original) A packaging machine for packaging a product, the packaging machine comprising:
a plurality of lane guides, said plurality of lane guides being spaced apart to form a plurality of lanes;
a moveable conveyor belt having a first end and a second end, said first end located beneath one of said plurality of lanes, said moveable conveyor belt delivers the product to each of said plurality of lanes;
a support device located at said plurality of lanes; and
a shifting assembly attached to said plurality of lane guides.
2. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 1, wherein said support device includes a support strip, said support strip being located at each of said plurality of lanes and is located beneath said moveable conveyor belt, said support strip supports the product.
3. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 1, wherein said support device includes a bladder pair mounted to each of said plurality of lane guides.
4. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of lanes includes an appropriate number of lanes to fill a case.
5. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 4, wherein said plurality of lanes includes a spare lane.
6. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 1, further comprising a spacing mechanism disposed at said moveable conveyor belt.
7. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 6, wherein said spacing mechanism includes a screw, said screw is adapted to space the product.

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8. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 6, wherein said spacing mechanism includes a side belt assembly.

9. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 1, wherein said shifting assembly is adapted to move said lane guides from a first position to a second position, said first and second positions being spaced apart a distance substantially equal to a width of one of said plurality of lanes.

10. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 1, further comprising a flex guide mounted to said movable conveyor belt, said flex guide being adapted to direct the product into said plurality of lanes.

11. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 1, further comprising a sensor mounted adjacent to said plurality of lanes.

12. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 1, further comprising a conveyor shifting assembly, said conveyor shifting assembly moves said conveyor from one of said plurality of lanes to an adjacent one of said plurality of lanes.

13. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 1, further comprising a case feed assembly located beneath said plurality of lanes.

14. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 13, wherein said case feed assembly is configured to position a case beneath said lane guides, the case being sized to receive the product delivered into said plurality of lanes.

15. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 14, wherein said case feed assembly includes a feed conveyor, said conveyor is adapted to deliver the case beneath said plurality of lanes.

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16. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 15, wherein said one feed conveyor is adapted to remove the case from beneath said plurality of lanes.

17. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 1, further comprising a controller.

18. (Original) A packaging machine for packaging a product, the packaging machine comprising:

a plurality of lane guides, said plurality of lane guides being spaced apart to form a plurality of lanes, said plurality of lanes includes an appropriate number of lanes to fill a case and a spare lane;

a moveable conveyor belt having a first end and second end, said first end located beneath one of said plurality of lanes, said moveable conveyor belt delivers the product to each of said plurality of lanes;

a support device located at said plurality of lanes; and

a shifting assembly attached to said plurality of lane guides.

19. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 18, wherein said support device includes a support strip, said support strip being located at each of said plurality of lanes and is located beneath said moveable conveyor belt, said support strip supports the product.

20. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 18, wherein said support device includes a bladder pair mounted to each of said plurality of lane guides.

21. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 18, further comprising a spacing mechanism disposed at said second end of said moveable conveyor belt.

22. (Original) The packaging machine of claim 21, wherein said spacing mechanism includes a screw, said screw adapted to space the product.

23. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 21, wherein said spacing mechanism includes a side belt assembly.

24. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 18, wherein said shifting assembly is adapted to move said lane guides from a first position to a second position, said first and second positions being spaced apart a distance substantially equal to a width of one of said plurality of lanes.

25. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 18, further comprising a flex guide mounted to said movable conveyor belt, said flex guide being adapted to direct the product into said plurality of lanes.

26. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 18, further comprising a sensor mounted adjacent to said plurality of lanes.

27. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 18, further comprising a conveyor shifting assembly, said conveyor shifting assembly moves said conveyor from one of said plurality of lanes to an adjacent one of said plurality of lanes.

28. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 18, further comprising a case feed assembly located beneath said plurality of lanes.

29. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 28, wherein said case feed assembly is configured to position the case beneath said appropriate number of lane guides, the case being sized to receive the product delivered into said appropriate number of lanes.

30. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 29, wherein said case feed assembly includes a feed conveyor, said conveyor is adapted to deliver the case beneath said plurality of lanes.

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31. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 30, wherein said one feed conveyor is adapted to remove the case from beneath said plurality of lanes.

32. (Original) The packaging machine of Claim 18, further comprising a controller.

33-57. (Withdrawn)

58-63. (Canceled)

64-73. (Withdrawn)

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